



The Revolutions Of 1848

"The Springtime of Peoples"

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The turning point at which history failed to turn.

--- George Macaulay Trevelyan [1937]



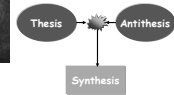
Historicism



George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel [1744-1803]

G The "Hegelian Dialectic"

- History advances through conflict.
- One phase of history creates its opposite [ex: absolutism to democracy].



Pre-1848 Tensions: Long-Term

- G Industrialization
 - Economic challenges to rulers.
 - Rapid urbanization.
 - Challenges to the artisan class.
- G Population doubled in the 18^c
 - Food supply problems → Malthus
- G Ideological Challenges
 - Liberalism, nationalism, democracy, socialism.
- G Romanticism
- G Repressive Measures
 - Carlsbad Decrees [Prus.]
 - Six Acts [Eng.]
 - Secret police created in many European states.



Pre-1848 Tensions: Short-Term

- G Agricultural Crises
 - Poor cereal harvests
 - prices rose 60% in one year.
 - Potato blight → Ireland
 - Prices rose 135% for food in one year!
- G Financial Crises
 - Investment bubbles burst → railways, iron, coal.
 - Unemployment increased rapidly [esp. among the artisan class].

Working & middle classes are now joined in misery as are the urban and agricultural peasantry!



Prince Metternich



1815: We have redrawn Europe's map for eternity.



Not Really: Centers of Revolution in 1848

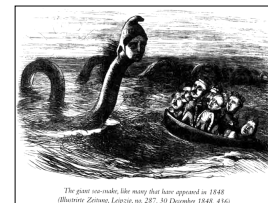


No Coherent Organized Revolutions

- G Many different reasons for revolutionary activities.
 - Reactions to long- and short-term causes.
- G Competing ideologies in different countries.
- G Different revolutionary leaders, aims, and goals in different countries.
- G Some countries had no revolutions:
 - England.
 - Russia.



FRANCE: The Giant Sea Snake



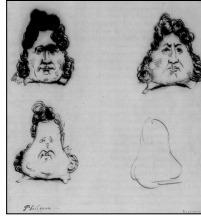
The giant sea snake, like many that have appeared in 1848
(Blutiger Zeitung, Leipzig, no. 287, 30 December 1848, 436)



FRANCE



Louis Philippe, "The Pear," 1848



Prince Louis: *Not Too Steady!*



Victor Hugo & Miguel de Girardin try to raise Prince Louis upon a shield. [Honoré Daubier's lithograph published in Charavari, December 11, 1848].



The February Revolution

- G Working class & liberals unhappy with King Louis Philippe, esp. with his minister, Francois Guizot [who opposed electoral reform].
- G Reform Banquets used to protest against the King.
 - Paris Banquet banned.
 - Troops open fire on peaceful protesters.
 - Barricades erected; looting.
 - National Guard [politically disenfranchised] defects to the radicals.
 - King Louis Philippe loses control of Paris and abdicates on February 24.



Alphonse Lamartine



- G A poet & liberal, he believed in the "Rights of Man."
 - To vote, to free speech, to property, & to a secular education.
- G Declared a new Provisional Government.
 - Conservatives & liberals are suspicious of republicanism.
 - Reminiscent of the Reign of Terror.



Louis Blanc

- G A Social Democrat.
- G He believed in the "Right to Work."
 - National Workshops.
 - Provide work for the unemployed.
- G Financial Crisis
 - Flight of capital.
 - Stock market crashes [55% decline].
 - New 45% increase of taxes on the peasants.



The Coalition Splits: Mar.-May

- G The conflicts between liberals & socialists over:
 - The timing of elections to the Constituent Assembly.
 - The costs of government social programs.
 - Did they violate laissez-faire?
 - The question of whether you could have liberty for all men and still have a system based on private property.
- G Growing social tensions between the working class & the bourgeois middle class regarding:
 - The nature of work.
 - The right to unionize.
 - Pay levels.



April Elections

- G Resulted in a conservative majority in the National Assembly.
 - They began debating the fate of social programs [like the National Workshops].
- G The conservative majority wanted the removal of radicals like Blanc from the government.
 - In early June, the National Workshops were shut down.
 - This heightened class tensions!



The "June Days"

- G Worker groups in Paris rose up in insurrection.
 - They said that the government had betrayed the revolution.
 - Workers wanted a redistribution of wealth.
 - Barricades in the streets.
 - Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* was based on this event.
- G A new liberal-conservative coalition formed to oppose this lower class radicalism.





Paris: To the Barricades Again!



The 2nd French Republic (1848-1852)



The Republic by Jean-Leon Gerome

G General Louis Cavaignac assumed dictatorial powers & crushed the revolt.

- 10,000 dead.
- A victory for conservatives.

G Nov., 1848 → a new constitution provided for:

- An elected President.
- A one-house legislature.



President Louis Napoleon

G The December election:

- The "law and order" candidate, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, defeated Cavaignac.
- This was a big shift in middle class opinion to the right!



G The New President:

- Purged the govt. of all radical officials.
 - Replaced them with ultra-conservative and monarchists.
- Disbanded the National Assembly and held new elections.
 - Represented himself as a "Man of the People."
- His government regularly used force against dissenters.



1851 Coup d'Etat



G President Louis Napoleon declared a hereditary 2nd French Empire.

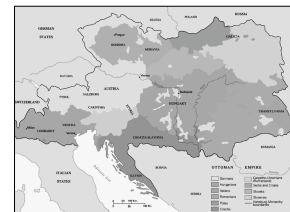
G A national plebiscite confirmed this.



The HAPSBURG EMPIRE



The Austrian Empire: 1830



Ferdinand I (1793-1875)

G The nature of the Austrian Empire:

- Very conservative monarchy [liberal institutions didn't exist].

G Culturally and racially heterogeneous.

G Social reliance on serfdom dooms masses of people to a life without hope.

G Corrupt and inefficient.

G Competition with an increasingly powerful Prussia.



Therefore, the Empire was vulnerable to revolutionary challenges.



Austrian Students Form a Militia



Vienna, 1848: The Liberal Revolution

G The "February Revolution" in France triggered a rebellion for liberal reforms.

G March 13 → rioting broke out in Vienna.

- The Austrian Empire collapsed.
 - Metternich fled.
 - Constituent Assembly met.
 - Serfdom [robot] abolished.
- The revolution began to wane.
 - The revolutionary government failed to govern effectively.

